What a GED Can DO

Ever since I was a little girl I dreamed of graduating high school and going to college. No one in my family had ever graduated from high school, let alone went to college. I would dream about how great it would be to walk down the aisle to receive my diploma, my family cheering with great pride. I would dream about what college life would be like, living on campus, dorm rooms, meeting new people, and the excitement of finding out who I was and who I was going to be.

I would like to tell you that this was the story of my life and everything went according to plan, but that is not exactly how my journey went. High school for me became less about preparing for my future and more about my social life and social status. Not that my goals had changed just my priorities. Life was not about good attendance and trying for the best grades possible but more about friends and parties.

I dropped out of high school my senior year and was no longer living at home. I kind of went through life aimlessly going from job to job and pretending like I was going to get my G.E.D. I say pretending because I would go to a class site for a couple of months, not really apply myself, then, eventually stop going. I was stuck in a rut and not really trying to find a way out.

I think that in every person's life they have a life changing event

and that their actions afterwards are what define them as a person. For me it was when I found out I was two months pregnant with my son. I knew that I wanted to be able to provide a life of comfort for him. I wanted to be a role model and not just another high school drop out.

When Isaiah was two months old I started G.E.D. classes at the Chillicothe site. This time I was determined for it to

be different. I went to classes regularly and put great effort into the subject I was learning, realizing that slacking off only hurt me. I would often talk with my teacher, Pam Dedrick, about scholarships colleges offered to G.E.D. students and what goals were realistic for a person in my situation. I made it my personal goal to at least score a 3000 on the G.E.D. test. I was so nervous when I went and took the test, and it felt like an entire life time to get my results back.

The day I received the results back, I was extremely anxious when I opened the envelope. I passed with a score of 2970, 30 points under the goal I had set for myself but I was totally happy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

with that.

I received the results in July and had only a couple of weeks to enroll in college. Pam and Karen Dixon, the Even-Start director, helped me with filling out the paper work and with the enrollment. I was officially a college student.

I started school in August and like that was in the routine of college life. Then in October I received a call from Pam saying that she knew of an opening for a secretary at the AEL office at North Central Missouri College. So I filled out my first ever resume, and sent it to the AEL office. I was interviewed and hired

GED,

From the **State AEL Office**

New AEL Section Supervisor Begins Duties

Theresa Noellsch began her duties as DESE Section Supervisor on January 3rd replacing Linda Hays who resigned the position in October.

Noellsch previously held the position as Director of Adult Education at Della Lamb in Kansas City for the past three years. Theresa has worked as an administrator and teacher in the Della Lamb Adult Education Program in the capacity as Director, ESL Coordinator and Child Care Coordinator. Prior to her employment with Della Lamb's Adult Education Program, Noellsch was employed as a kindergarten teacher.

As AEL Section Supervisor, her primary responsibilities are GED Online, Teacher Certification, Content Standards, Spring Director's Conference, Learning Differences and the ESL Special Literacy Grant.

Noellsch is excited about her new position and noted that this role provides her the opportunity to help more Missouri students. "I have always been mission-minded and see this position as helping to have more positive effects on a greater number of people," she said. Accepting this position also allows her to live closer to her family. Noellsch spent most of her childhood in Bowling Green, MO. She received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg.

In her spare time, Theresa says she likes to read and collect children's books. She occasionally enjoys scrap booking, sewing, gardening and going on nature walks.

Average Literacy for Women in Missouri Higher Than Average Literacy of Women in the Nation

Women in Missouri had higher average prose, document, and quantitative literacy than women in the nation. The average prose literacy of men in Missouri was also significantly higher than for men in the nation, though differences between men in Missouri and men in the nation for document and quantitative literacy were not significant.

In the nation, women outperformed men on the prose literacy scale, while men outperformed women on the quantitative literacy scale. In contrast, differences in the average prose, document, and quantitative literacy of men and women in Missouri were not significant. On the document scale, the percentage of women in Missouri with *Proficient*

Literacy,

EMAIL, Part II

By: Jamy Preul

The following are common email terms with an explanation.

Mailer/email software/mail client

These three terms refer to the same thing-- the email program you are using. There is a distinction between these, however, and the "mail server" (q.v.).

Mail server

This is the computer that runs the mail program and actually sends and receives your mail, then puts it into your mailbox.

Addressee/recipient

Also known as the "To:" person.

Cc:

Like in a letter, the carbon copy-- a copy of your message will go to this person, as well. All mail programs have a cc option somewhere.

Bcc:

This is a "blind cc," which means that the original addressee will not know that a copy of your message is going to this person. Think carefully when you use this option. In some cases, it is like talking behind someone's back. It is also often used to send a message to a group of people where you do not want them to know each other's email address. Spam (see below) uses this option frequently.

Subject

The topic of your message -- always try to remember to include a subject. Some mailing lists won't let you post a message without a subject, and some mail programs are intelligent enough to remind you if you try to send a message with no subject.

Message

What you're trying to say. Depending on the mail program you use, the message may include unnecessary information at the top about all the computers your message went through to get to you. Be sure you delete the extraneous garbage before you reply or forward a message.

Nicknames

These are shortcuts that most programs will let you create so that you don't have to type in the whole address of people you write to frequently. Nicknames can also be used for a group of people you write to frequently.

Address book

A set of nicknames makes up an address book. This can also be called "Contacts."

Send

To mail a message to someone.

Queue

In Eudora, to gather all the message you're going to send in order to mail them all at once. This is useful if you pay for your mail time -- you create all your messages when you're not connected (online), queue the messages,

original sender gets your message, he or she may not remember what you are agreeing to! The original message in most mailers is indicated by > signs at the beginning of each line.

Forward

To send a message you have received on to someone else. It's generally polite to tell the original sender that you are forwarding his or her message. Before you forward someone else's message to a mailing list, it's necessary to get the original sender's permission or you risk getting a very angry message! The From: line in a message that you forward will have your name; inside the message will be the name of the original sender, subject, and date sent. It's a good idea to cc: the original sender.

Redirect

This is an option in Eudora that does not exist is all mailers. When you redirect a

EMAIL,

Professional Development Center Advisory Committee News

Submitted by: John Stains, Director, MO AEL Professional Development Center

The PDC Advisory Committee met on January 19th. Many items were discussed during the meeting.

It was announced that Dale Wimer has been assigned to supervise the PDC.

The "PDC This Month" newsletter was shared with the committee. The newsletter will be issued each month to all local program directors. It will share updates and information about PDC activities and offer special features on particular items of interest. The first issue will be released in February.

The PDC discussed recent meetings with the state office and shared the direction they have asked the PDC to go. Items discussed included professional development for directors, an onsite technology survey, development of a long range PD plan and major revisions to the Administrators Handbook, with a new title called "Administrators Guide"

Jamy Preul gave an ACES update and mentioned 23 of the local programs needed ACES installed or re-installed this year. This was due to many programs updating their ACES computer. She also announced that Kim Nash and Phyllis Shelby will be available for ACES support starting in February.

Summer workshops were discussed and it was announced that multi-topic workshops will return for AEL teachers this summer. Resource workshops will also continue this summer. All information for summer workshops, including dates, locations and format will be announced at the spring directors conference.

The committee discussed in-service topics for fiscal year 2007 and decided to submit two topics to the state office for approval.

The meeting concluded with possible revisions to the BTAP and a desk review of the PCW.

The next meeting for the PDC Advisory Committee will be March 23rd.

The PDC is a grant funded agency to provide all professional development activities to AEL directors, teachers, and support staff. The PDC is operated by North Central Missouri College in Trenton, Missouri.

Photo submitted by John Stains, Director, MO AEL Professional Development Center

The mission of the "Show-Me Literacy" newsletter is to provide professional information-sharing, resources and news about adult education and literacy.

EMAIL,

(Cont. from page 3)

message, the original sender's name appears in the From: line, not your name (see Forward for the difference), and the original message does not appear with > marks.

Delete

To get rid of a message. Many mailers, including Eudora and Pine, make this a two-step process where you mark a message for deletion (Pine) or put it into the Trash folder (Eudora), but it's not actually gone until you quit the program. If you change your mind, you can Undelete (Pine) or Transfer it from the Trash to another mailbox (Eudora).

Routing

This is the path a message takes to get to its recipient. Some mailers will show this; others politely remove it. In Eudora, you can see it by clicking on the "Blah, Blah" icon in the top line. The only time you care about the routing is if you're having trouble sending or receiving a message. Your technical advisor (I hope you have one!) will be able to look at the routing and figure out where the message may be going.

Bounce

This is when a message comes back to the sender without being delivered. You usually get a message from the Postmaster entitled "Undeliverable mail" that tells you about the bounce. If you have a poor Internet connection and your mail

server is often out of order ("down"), your mail may bounce. Listservs such as TESL-L are very intolerant of bouncing messages, and will usually cancel your subscription if they happen too often.

SLIP, PPP, direct connection

These are ways you can be connected to the Internet. If you are dialing into a mail server (in other words, you have a 'dialup connection'), you are probably using PPP (Point to Point Protocol) or SLIP (Serial Line Internet Protocol). If you don't need to use a modem, you have a direct connection. Even a direct connection may not mean that the mail server sends your mail immediately. It may send and receive mail in a batch at specific times during the day, and your mail will wait with everyone else's at your institution to be sent and received.

Spam

Junk mail. It's almost unavoidable. Some programs, such as SpamAssassin, try to help control spam. As long as people can buy 5 million email addresses for $10, though, spam will continue to be a burden on all email users.

Emoticon/smiley

These are little symbols used to express emotion online. The most common ones are smileys (happy faces) that look like this :) or this :-)

Average Literacy in Missouri and the Nation Lowest for the Oldest Adults

Adults in the 19–24, 40–49, and 50–64 age groups in Missouri had higher average prose and document literacy than adults in the same age groups in the nation. Among adults in the youngest age group, 19–24, average document scores were 17 points higher in Missouri than in the nation.

For quantitative literacy, the only difference between Missouri and the nation was for adults in the 40–49 age group, who outperformed adults of the same age in the nation.

Similar to in the nation, average prose, document, and quantitative literacy in Missouri was lowest for the oldest adults (age 65 and older). These adults were also the largest age group with *Below Basic* literacy. On the quantitative scale, for example, nearly 40 percent of adults in Missouri age 65 and older had *Below Basic* literacy.

Reprinted from Missouri 2003 NAAL Report.

COABE
2006 Conference

April 26-29
Houston, Texas

MAWD
(MO Association for
Workforce
Development)
Annual Conference
April 3-5

Lodge
of the
Four Seasons
Lake Ozark

For conference and
registration
information visit:
www.mo-awd.org

AEL Spring 2006
Director's
Conference

April 11-13
Jefferson City

GED

(cont. from page 1)

the next day. I was very excited, to get the job and even more so after I learned that Pam had vouched for me. It made me realize that a woman I respected and admired had the same amount of respect for me and was willing to put her name on the line. It gave me a true sense of pride and accomplishment.

I spent a lot of time dwelling on the fact that my life didn't go as I planned and really gave up hope on the goals I had set for myself at such an early age. Then I realized that it's not the mistakes you make in life that matter , it's the actions you take to correct them. I am truly proud of myself and value every opportunity given to me in life. And I know that this is only the beginning.

I am grateful that my position allows me to encourage people to not give up on their dreams and to help them realize that there are options out there. I am proud to be part of a program that helps people make their dreams come true. I truly feel without the AEL program I wouldn't have been able to live up to my full potential.

Submitted by: John Stains, Director, MO AEL Professional Development Center

Literacy,

(Cont. from page 2)

literacy was higher than the percentage of men. Differences between men and women with *Proficient* literacy on the prose and quantitative scales were not statistically significant.

Reprinted from Missouri 2003 NAAL Report

MAELPDC
Pre-Certification
Workshops
(Formerly BTW)

February 4-5
March 25-26
May 20-21

MAELPDC
CONTACTS

Professional Development
Center Director: John Stains
jstains@mail.ncmissouri.edu

Professional Development Coordinator: Jamy Preul at
jpreul@mail.ncmissouri.edu

Distance Learning Specialist:
Phyllis Shelby at
pshelby@mail.ncmissouri.edu

Professional Development: Kim
Nash at
knash@mail.ncmissouri.edu

Visit the North Central Missouri
College Website:
http://www.ncmissouri.edu
Contact webmaster